

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2005.

Applicants initially wish to express their gratitude to the Examiner for the indication of patentable subject matter in claims 5, 8, 9, and 11-26 (contingent upon the correction of certain rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §112). In view of the Examiner's findings, Applicant's have made certain amendments to the claims which are believed to put all claims in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

In response to the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-27 for reciting indefinite subject matter, Applicants have deleted the "and/or" language of claim 1 (cancelled and now recited in whole in newly independent claim 5) and replaced it with a recitation of limitations in Markush form. Regarding the recitation of the limitations "in particular" and "more specifically", these terms have been deleted and replaced with the word "and".

In view of the aforesaid amendments to the claims, the claims are now believed to recite "definite" subject matter, and reconsideration of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 AND/OR §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 27 as reciting subject matter which is either anticipated or rendered obvious in view of the cited prior art. Reconsideration of the rejections of such claims is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejections, Applicants have amended claims 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 27 to include all of the limitations of the claims they were originally dependent therefrom. Moreover, claims 1-4, and 10 have been cancelled. As a result, all claims now pending recite

In re Di Blasi, et al.  
10/657,702

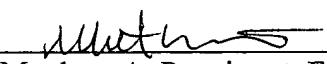
subject matter indicated as patentable by the Examiner in the subject Office Action (all claims not listed above depend from the aforesaid independent claims, and, moreover, have addressed the §112 rejections as discussed above).

In view of the amendments to the claims discussed herein, allowance of all pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited. Although all issues are believed to have been resolved by this amendment, if any issues are determined to remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned telephonically so that such issues can be addressed most expeditiously.

A check in the amount of \$560.00 is attached for the extra independent claims and a One Month Extension of Time. It is believed that no other fee is due at this time. If that determination should be incorrect, then please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0644 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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